

of their objective clinical resemblance to spondylolisthesis, a condition for which they have been mistaken (Kronig).

Chapter III is devoted to a consideration of Lateral Curvature. Except for an added picture or two it is identical with the same chapter in the first edition. The last edition, like the first, gives in detail two excellent systems of muscle-building exercises. Forcible correction in plaster of paris jackets is touched upon, and the antiquated scoliosis press of Hoffa, an appliance which its inventor discarded nearly a decade ago for the Wullstein machine, is pictured. The deduction is inevitable that the enormous activity of orthopedic surgeons in the study of lateral curvature during the past six years, has, in Dr. Whitman's opinion, been barren of tangible results.

We dissent from this view. In this country the X-ray studies by Bohm of scolioses due to other skeletal asymmetries, of congenital origin, by Lovett in the mechanics of the normal and of the scoliotic spine and by Feiss on the influence of changes in equilibrium and asymmetrical tension on spinal distortions, is of the very first importance. While in Europe, Wullstein of Holle and Lange in Munich have devised efficient methods of treating different phases of this condition. We regret that the subject is too technical and space too limited to admit of our doing more than direct attention to the work of these eminent men.

Dr. Whitman's chapter contains all that the non-specialist student would care to read of theory, pathology and symptoms, and elaborates with his accustomed accuracy the kind of treatment a general practitioner could carry out if he gave himself diligently to it. But there are cases which require more skill than the general practitioner can give, and special methods of treatment for which he lacks the appropriate armamentarium. If these facts are recognized it will be better for both doctor and patient.

Chapter V is devoted to a general consideration of tuberculous disease of the bones and joints. It is on a plane with the chapters on tuberculosis of the spine and of the hip, perhaps the most illuminating twenty pages in the entire book. We do not apologize for making the following excerpts in full: "The tuberculin test, although of some importance from the negative standpoint, is of no particular value as establishing a diagnosis of joint disease, for the reason that tuberculous disease of the lymph glands is so common even among those whose joints are free from disease. For the same reason it is valueless as a test of practical cure." Instances are on record, however, in which a marked local reaction in the form of an exaggeration of the symptoms of joint inflammation followed the exhibition of a dose of tuberculin and cleared up an otherwise doubtful diagnosis.

The book contains no more important paragraph than the following: "From what has been stated of the causes of disease, it follows that the general condition should include, if possible, a change in the hygienic surroundings, relief from the danger of further infection, pure air and proper food. These are as essential in the treatment of tuberculosis of the bones as of other parts.

"The importance of the constitutional treatment of tuberculous disease, more particularly the proper environment in which the greater part of the day and even the night may be passed in the open air, can hardly be exaggerated." It is unfortunate that the printer's art does not admit of variations of emphasis as does the spoken word. Our own disposition would have been to print that paragraph in red ink and in heavy type—anything to attract attention to it and hold it there, for it con-

tains the secret of success or failure in the treatment of tubercular joint lesions.

A method of treating joint lesions and especially tuberculous ones that has of late years come rapidly into prominence is the passive congestion method of Bier. It is briefly considered in the book before us. After mentioning the technic, Whitman continues: "The action of the nervous or passive congestion is, according to Bier, as follows: 1. It increases the formation of fibrous tissue and induces hypertrophy of the bones. 2. It has a bactericidal action in infectious joint disease, notably tuberculosis. 3. It has an absorptive effect on the effused products of disease, and on new formations that check joint motion. 4. It relieves pain and lessens the activity of progressive joint disease."

A hundred pages are devoted to the discussion of "hip disease," this term, as the author hastens to say, being "now limited to tuberculous disease."

**Starr on Nervous Diseases. Organic and Functional Diseases.** By M. Allen Starr, M.D., Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of Neurology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons. New York; ex-President of the American Neurological Association and of the New York Neurological Society. Second edition, thoroughly revised. Octavo, 824 pages, with 282 engravings and 26 full-page plates. Cloth, \$6.00, net; leather, \$7.00 net. Lea Brothers & Co., Philadelphia and New York, 1907.

The first edition of this book dealt only with the organic diseases of the nervous system. The present edition treats in a lucid and helpful manner of the functional troubles as well. The diseases of the ductless glands such as acromegaly, myxedema and exophthalmic goitre have been omitted; also tetanus and the so-called trophic disorders. We doubt the advisability of these exclusions. These diseases, to be sure, are comprised in works upon general medicine, as the author says, but so are the diseases which Dr. Starr's book treats of and often very well handled, too, in Strumpell's book, for instance. A certain disproportion is noted between certain chapters. Neuritis occupies many pages, while to the chapter on syphilis of the nervous system only three are devoted. There is much to be found in the book in different places on the latter very important subject, but this particular chapter is very much inferior to that contained in Oppenheim's treatise.

It is needless to remark that localization, central and spinal, is fully described. In the therapeutic directions there is no suggestion of vitalism, nor does the author indulge a misleading optimism. This good sense is especially conspicuous in the chapters on hysteria and neurasthenia. We think the practitioner will be as satisfied with Dr. Starr's prescriptions as the nature of the diseases will permit.

We found no mention of cervical ribs, among the causes of disease of the trachial plexus. There are a number of misprints in the index and elsewhere. For Mill's Disease, for instance, the reference in the index is to page 512, but it is not to be found there.

The illustrations are abundant. There are perhaps more pictures after Golgi specimens than are necessary or useful, but many others have been judiciously reproduced from other works.

**Insanity Cured by a New Treatment. Details of Twenty-one Cases.** By C. W. Luckling, M. D., Birmingham, '07. Cornish Brothers, Ltd. Price 2 shillings, net.

"The insanity written of in this paper is entirely caused by dropped kidney." "The cause of the in-